

CONTACT

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*Sunrise, with All Saints Church in the background
Photograph: R. Y. Ball*

**PLEASE SEE PAGE 4 FOR CORRECTIONS TO TIMES AND PLACES
FOR THE PALM SUNDAY (MARCH 25TH) SERVICES**



Xpressions Café. Sunday March 4th.

The theme was foolishness and wisdom, based on the Bible passage from 1 Corinthians chapter 1, for example verse 18: *"For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."* The children made the collage of owls on the tree, and wrote what they thought is wise advice in the speech bubbles. They also chose to colour pictures of animals which were either behaving foolishly or wisely, hence the chicken and the monkeys! We finished the session by thinking about the story of the wise man building his house on the rock, and how we can live 'wisely' by following the way that Jesus showed us.

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Baptisms, Weddings, Thanksgiving Service for the Gift of a Child
To arrange any of the above please contact the Church Office.

Church Websites

www.chetvalleychurches.org www.emerging-church.org

'Contact' Magazine

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Please include your name and telephone number.

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Similarly, the opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Church in Loddon

Editorial



PALM SUNDAY SERVICES March 25th.

Apologies! In the March 'Contact' I gave the wrong information for the above date. It should have been as follows:

Sun 25th <i>Palm Sunday</i>	9.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints Chedgrave
	10.30 am	Morning Worship	St. Margaret Hardley
	10.45am	Morning Worship	St. John's Loddon
	6.30 for 7.00pm	Last Sunday Praise	St. John's Loddon

As I write this the snow has just about melted away - March certainly came 'in like a lion' (*the beast from the east!*), so let's hope the rest of the old rhyme proves to be true, and that it will 'go out like a lamb'! I found it almost miraculous that when the snow went, the signs of Spring were still there - buds on shrubs and trees, and bulbs pushing up through the frozen ground.

April 1st is Easter Sunday, and although this month's cover photograph may not at first seem to have much relevance to the events of Easter, there is quite a lot of symbolism in it: there are the three trees in the foreground, the cross in the background, and it was taken at sunrise, when we celebrate the Resurrection. April 1st is also, of course, April Fool's Day. I have read the occasional comment that seems to suggest this is somehow significant in pouring scorn on the belief in Christ's resurrection: seems to me that in raising Jesus from the dead, God had the last laugh: perhaps the greatest April Fool's trick of them all!

Happy Easter!

Enjoy all the events that are being planned in what I hope will be a warm and fine Spring!

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Ministerial Musings

A pilgrimage is a journey especially a long one made to a sacred place, or one undertaken as a quest to pay homage. I have recently returned from a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, which was organised and led by Bishop Graham James. What a wonderful experience of sights and sounds it has been, seeing with our own eyes so much of what we have seen in our imaginations.

As we were based in Tiberias for the first few days we visited towns and open spaces around that area where Jesus taught and performed miracles. We were also taken on a boat on the huge inland waters of the Sea of Galilee. We travelled South along the Jordan valley, stood in the river Jordan where Jesus was baptised and renewed our own baptism promises there. Journeying on to our accommodation in Bethlehem, we then visited the place where Jesus was born and the shepherd's caves in the hills above the town. In Jerusalem we followed Jesus' path through the Garden of Gethsemane where it was so moving to stand where he anticipated his crucifixion on the cross. Walking along the Via Dolorosa gave an incredible sense of walking in his footsteps. We visited the rock upon which the cross stood, and a tomb where his body was taken after he had died. These sites are the most revered places to visit, but standing in the upper room in Jerusalem where Jesus was with his disciples after his resurrection, and also standing on the shore of the Sea of Galilee where he cooked fish for them on a charcoal fire, were the most awe inspiring places of all.

A challenging part of our journey was having to go through all of the security check points in and out of Bethlehem, and seeing soldiers carrying guns who were watching for any signs of disturbance. I was shocked to see the huge concrete walls separating the Israeli and Palestinian settlements and to learn about the plight of so many families at the Dheisheh refugee camp. It was difficult to witness such a situation caused by conflict. Sami Awad who founded The Holy Land Trust, came to speak to our group about the work of the trust which is based on strong principles of non-violence, as a catalyst to end all conflict and establish enduring and comprehensive peace in the Holy Land.

Jesus teaches us to love others as much as we love ourselves. He said 'Blessed are the peacemakers'. Please pray for Sami, his organisation and others who work towards peace and reconciliation, and pray too for all the people caught up in so many places of man-made conflict in the world today.

This pilgrimage has been a journey of a lifetime which has given me a wider perception of many things and food for thought as I recall all of those sights and sounds.

Jill Haylock.

Information about The Holy Land Trust can be found at www.holylandtrust.org
and the Dheisheh refugee camp at www.unrwa.org

Adverts

Across the Chet Valley Churches

Worship in the Chet Valley

**You will be warmly welcomed to any of our services.
We hope to provide worship to suit everybody.**



- **Holy Communion** is celebrated every Sunday at one or other of the churches in the Benefice, either Book of Common Prayer or Common Worship, with an informal Holy Communion service once a month in Chedgrave.
- Once a month there is an **Evening Prayer** service at Sisland.
- Services of **Morning Worship** are held in Loddon and Hardley.
- **Last Sunday Praise** is held on the Last Sunday of the month at St John's in Loddon: a chance to sing old and new Christian songs plus time to worship together.

Families and children are welcome at all our services.

*Special provision is made at Chedgrave
where there is a toilet and baby changing facilities.*

- **Xpressions Café** Normally held at All Saints, Chedgrave, on the first Sunday every month between 10.00 a.m. and 12.00 noon. This is a relaxed and contemporary way of 'doing church'. You can come and go as you please for coffee, cake, crafts, games, songs and much more.
- **Xtra!** An exciting, informal service every Thursday after school in St John's Church.
- **All Together Worship** on the third Sunday.
This is designed to be as inclusive as possible, a mixture of formality and informality; traditional and modern; activity and stillness. In short, we will attempt to provide a service which will have points of connection for children and adults - indeed people of all ages and all backgrounds.

In Loddon and Chedgrave there is an opportunity to meet after the service and enjoy a chat over tea or coffee.

Home Communion: If you would like home communion, because you are unable for any reason to get to a Sunday service, please contact the clergy or the Church Office and we will arrange for someone to bring communion to you.

***Times and details of the services can be found
in the centre pages of the magazine.***

Adverts

Thanksgivings & Baptisms



You are welcome to request thanksgiving and baptism for your children. Thanksgiving Services may be held at any time in the churches by arrangement with the clergy. They are an opportunity to give thanks for the gift of a new child and to celebrate this with family and friends in the presence of God.

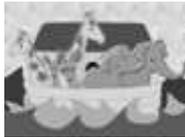
Baptisms are usually held within the Sunday worship in our churches. They are an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the new life we have in Jesus and to welcome a child into God's family, the Church.

Please contact Rev Alison Ball on 01508 528126

ball880am@btinternet.com or the Church Office on 01508 521179.

Noah's Ark

A drop-in group for babies, toddlers and their parent and carer.



Wednesdays

9.15a.m. to 12 noon. All welcome.

For further details please call Alison on 01508 528126 or e-mail : **ball880am@btinternet.com**

Friends and Neighbours

If you've been widowed or have lost your life partner come and join us at St John's Lecture Hall on the first Thursday of the month. Make new friends, enjoy tea or lunch together.



March 1st. 2.00 p.m. Before afternoon tea, Rev. Jill will give a talk about her recent visit to the Holy Land

If you are interested in joining the group ring Jill on 520 248

Small Groups

Some of us like to meet during the week in small groups where we can enjoy each others' company, study the Bible together and pray for one another and for others.



Those who attend find their small group a real help and support.

If you would like to join one, or just to know more, please contact David Owen or the Church Office.

Monday Mardles

If you like a relaxed and informal chat with others or are looking to meet some new friends, join us at a Monday Mardles for refreshments and to swap books at Chedgrave Church Rooms.



Mardles are held every **Monday between 10:00 am and 12:00 noon.**

Come and go as you choose.

On average there are about 17 people who come to Mardles, and there's room for more! You will be made very welcome.

('Mardle' - in Norfolk it means a good old natter!)

Xtra!

Join us in St John's Church for an exciting, informal service **every Thursday after school.**

Refreshments, activities from 3.15. Service starts 3.45.

More from Reverend David 522993 or Reverend Alison 528126

Adverts

THE CHET VALLEY CHURCHES SPECIAL EVENTS

ALL SAINTS CHEDGRAVE

Saturday 21st April 10am-4pm

Have you ever felt you wanted to know more about praying, or wondered if you are 'doing it right'?

We are delighted to announce that on April 21st, All Saints Chedgrave will be providing special resources for prayer and reflection or just an opportunity for a quiet wander round our lovely building. Please just drop in at a time to suit you, for as long as you like, and make use of the variety of resources to aid prayer and reflection that will be available. Members of the church will be pleased to talk and pray with you, if you wish. You will be very welcome to enjoy our excellent refreshments, including hot and cold drinks.

This event is for everyone, whether you haven't prayed before or aren't used to churches, not just church members and those who are confident in prayer. All Saints Chedgrave is normally open for such purposes during daylight hours. However, this is a special event with additional resources and people available to enhance your experience.

For more information, please contact:- Jen Hayden, Churchwarden.

jenhayden27@gmail.com or 528454.

We look forward to welcoming you!



ALL SAINTS GIFT DAY AND 50 YEARS OF CHET NEWS : MAY 5th

Chedgrave Church has been serving the community for well over 900 years – here for joyful as well as sad occasions, here as a place of quiet and sanctuary, here as a place to remember, here to worship God. If you value that presence, both in the past and the present, and would like to support its continuation in the future, please come and donate at our Church Gift Day on **5th May, 11:00 -16:00.**

As part of serving the community, Chet News has been edited by Jack Barwick for the community and the church for 50 years. Come and celebrate that achievement with us at the Gift Day.

There will be an exhibition about Chet News, a free champagne raffle, ploughman's lunch (12:00 -13:30) and refreshments through the day.

Further details next month.

Adverts

THE CHURCH IN LODDON FUTURE EVENTS

EASTER FLOWERS Do visit Holy Trinity to enjoy the flowers.

MAY Watch out for information re a concert (possible a Nat King Cole Concert)

MAY 27th – We will have a Pop-up cafe at the LDBA street fayre from 12 noon onwards.

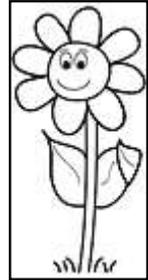
JUNE 23rd & 24th : OPEN GARDENS WEEKEND



Gardeners....

Springtime is well on its way
Do you love your garden?
Would you be happy to let
other people to enjoy it too?

Plans for OPEN GARDENS in June are marching ahead. We would like to include all gardens GREAT & SMALL. ... Yours, maybe?



The event will be on the weekend of 23 & 24 June.
If you think you might take part please contact Nina Owen on 01508 522993, or send an email to Nina at loddonopengardens@gmail.com.



Fundraising for the Church in Loddon

From the Parish Registers

IN MEMORIAM

JOYCE CARGILL who died on February 11th aged 93 years. The funeral is at Christ Church Eaton on March 15th, followed by interment at Heckingham.

Since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. So we will be with the Lord for ever. 1 Thessalonians 4. 14, 17b

THE SISLAND CHRONICLE

Hi! I'm Freddie, T.& J.'s Jack Russell, and this is a page from my diary. I should have sent it earlier, but my paws don't fit the key thingy and I have to get J. to do it when she has time! We had snow today, T. says its frozen water – but I don't believe him, as its white, and water is wet. Snow is lovely stuff to run about in, and you can see where all the birds and bunnies have been. I haven't seen much snow before – I'm only six - and It's quite cold stuff, so I spent the rest of the day on my stool in front of the fire! J. says I'm a wimp, but my fur is a bit thin underneath. (She puts on all sorts of coats and hats when she goes out.) I've got a lovely coat – but its only on top, and my legs aren't very long so my tummy touches the snow. 'F.'

On old maps there was a track leading from the Ingloss Lane T junction with the Mundham road, straight across the field, over the Sisland Beck, across a meadow to end on White House Lane in Sisland. It was in use in the early 1960's by school children going to catch the bus. The bridge was eventually washed away in a flood. In a dry summer it still shows as a 'crop mark' on the ground. The Roman road from Halesworth to Bungay crossed the Waveney into Norfolk, and the way through Ditchingham, along Luggs lane in Broome and then on to Sisland – which I have travelled along many times

Continued at the bottom of page 23

TAKE A TRIP ROUND THE LONDON UNDERGROUND: Can you find the way using these clues? No prizes – just for fun!		<i>Answers next month</i>	
1	Othello's playground	19	Found on the road to Damascus?
2	Where Sir Galahad crosses	20	Did Charles hide here?
3	Not quite a circle	21	Where the Rangers come from
4	The cleric is unwell	22	Coloured river crossing
5	Chalet abroad	23	Liquid convenience
6	Horse's drink	24	Do lots of doctors work 'ere?
7	Stand and wait for the flower beds	25	Singed hardwood
8	It's falling down	26	Do leg joints live here?
9	Royal route	27	Scottish street
10	Bigger than big	28	Pale church
11	Make them envious	29	Audrey Forbes-Hamilton's home
12	Angry port	30	Entrance for heavy bombers
13	Get plenty in	31	Miner's forest
14	Weapon store	32	Oriental meat
15	Noise from the dogs	33	Murder by arson
16	Trumpeting New York thoroughfare	34	Did the Wombles stop here?
17	Captured nobleman	35	Ancient thoroughfare
18	David's angry at The Office		

Allotment User Group

A suggestion has come out of discussions following the recent de-silting work, that allotment holders form a Users' Group, the purpose of which would be to provide a communication link with the Parish Council and represent the interests of allotment holders in maintaining and improving the site. If you would be interested in being part of this group then you are invited to attend an informal meeting at the Parish Council office on Thursday 27th April at 7:30pm.

Vandalism on Jubilee Hall Playing Fields

Yet again there has been significant vandalism on the Jubilee Hall Playing Field. User notices, which cost approx. £50 each, and waste bins which are significantly more expensive, are regularly vandalised. No sooner have replacements been provided than concerted efforts are employed, by the use of heavy duty cutters, to destroy the notices whilst the bins are forcibly removed from their bases. The Parish Council is required to have the User Notices in situ but the cost of continued replacements is becoming prohibitive. Unfortunately, the cost for all these replacements is met by all residents through their Council Tax bills.

The latest act of vandalism has been on the gate at the Childrens' Play Area which has been completely removed from its hinges and left lying on the ground!

The Parish Council is keen to avoid these increasing costs but, more importantly, preventing anyone becoming injured by this activity. If you have any information about vandalism please do inform the Parish Council. Any information provided will, of course, be treated in strictest confidence.

Dog owners and Doggy Bins: there are two Doggy bins provided on the Jubilee Hall Playing Fields and it would be much appreciated if all dog owners would use these! It is very unpleasant and unhygienic for others to stand in your dogs' mess! The health implications for children coming into contact with the mess can be significant and extremely serious; PLEASE PUT YOUR DOG MESS IN THE BINS PROVIDED. Thank you

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Parish Council is scheduled for Thursday 12th April 2018, to include the Annual Parish Meeting, commencing at 7.00pm in the Library Annexe. Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings and will be given the opportunity to speak. The agenda will be displayed on the notice board on Church Plain and on the council's website (see below) at least three days before the meeting. A list of the meeting dates in 2018 are on the LPC website.

Contact Us: Please telephone the Parish Council on 01508 522020, or email on clerk@loddonpc.org.uk. The office in the Library Annexe, Church Plain, Loddon is open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings between 9.00am and midday if you would like to visit in person. More information is available on the parish council's website: www.loddonpc.org.uk or find us on Facebook under Loddon Parish Council

Adverts

What's happening at Loddon Library?

Please check with the library for dates for the following:

- **Mini Movers:** A fun session with movement and song for children aged 2 plus
- **Book Ends – every other Friday, 3.30 – 4pm**
- **Saturday Junior Book club – fortnightly .**

Do you love to read and chat about books with others? Then come along to our new, fun book club 10:30am to 12:30pm. Run by youngsters for youngsters! The books will be based on a different theme each meeting.

.....

Facebook – Good news, you can now keep up to date with all our events and news by following us on Facebook just search for Loddon and Poringland libraries.

DVD Hire – A reminder you can hire dvds for just £2.00 per week. Top Titles £2.00 for 2 nights from the library. Special offer 2 for 1 every Thursday and Friday.

Just a cuppa – every Monday from 10am – Feeling at a loose end? Pop in for a friendly chat and a cuppa.

C.A.B. will be holding advice sessions in the library throughout 2018 – *please contact library staff for the dates.*

Computer Buddy Drop-In – Every Monday, 10am – 12noon – He's happy to help you with most IT difficulties.

Micro:bit! Did you know you can borrow these for free at your local library? A fun way to learn more about programming

Loddon Childrens Centre run the following sessions from the library

Loddon Little Ducklings – 1st and 3rd Thursday each month 10 to 11:00 am
Baby stay & play sessions for families with babies 0-18 months

Loddon Baby 'O.N.E.' stop – 4th Thursday of Each Month, 10 to 11:00 am
Optimum Nurturing Environment – A session to support you and your baby. Health visitor/ Assistant Health Practitioner and a CC staff run session. Babies 0 to 1 year.

Rhyme Time Fun; 2nd and 4th Monday monthly 2:15pm to 2:45pm – A fun and friendly session for babies and toddlers, sharing songs and rhymes to give babies the best possible start in learning to talk.

Baby weighing scales

We now have a set of baby weighing scales located in the library.

These can be used anytime during our normal opening hours.

For information on any of the above please contact the library staff.

Are you unable to get to the library? Would you like to have books chosen for you and collected? Contact the library for details of our housebound library service.

Opening times at bottom of page 29

Adverts



The Barclays Cashpoint Machine: We have been working closely with Barclays UK because the Cashpoint machine at the old bank premises wasn't working through the end of December and January despite their promises to have it operating until June this year. We are delighted to report that eventually they repaired it and it should have been working fully.

We rely on you telling us if there are any local issues we might be able to address directly such as this one. Speaking to big companies such as Barclays on behalf of the Business Association has a pretty strong effect which is harder to get when we do it as individuals.

We also contacted South Norfolk Council after the Church Plain car park was closed for two days in January due to essential repairs to the sunk drain in the entrance. We know that the shortage of parking availability affected local traders and there had been no real notice given of the closure. Thankfully they reopened later that afternoon.

The Christmas lights: These were taken down by a small hardworking team and we would like to thank them all for giving up their Sunday morning. Please let us know if you would like to help put them up again late autumn. Relying on volunteers saves Loddon the expense of over £4000 a year to put them up, which is fantastic and means you get the lights to enjoy each Christmas.

The Loddon Street Fayre: Sunday 27 May 11.00 -4.00p.m.

Please put this date in your diaries. There have been lots of requests to book a stall, and spaces are going fast. Local groups including Loddon WI, the British Legion and Guide Dogs for the Blind have taken advantage of the free pitch offer to promote themselves and we welcome all local groups, but they will need to book as soon as possible.

We still want more entertainers ranging from Singers and Dancers to magicians and other fun performers to make the event a fun place to sit and relax while enjoying some talent.

Helpers on the day are needed too either to set up and clear away or as stewards throughout the event - please get in touch and pass the word around.

The LDBA: We are here as a community group to support the success of Loddon and the surrounding district and want to make a difference for businesses working hard here to give us such a diverse offering within the community. Membership is very low and all funds raised are ploughed straight back into making things happen to improve life here for everyone. Members have the opportunity to attend social functions and get information to help such as a free talk on business banking. Please join us and benefit from working together to get the best for everyone.

Thanks

Caroline Bown [Chairman 07968188032]

Adverts

LANGLEY WITH HARDLEY VILLAGE HALL AGM

Tuesday 10th April 2018, 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

The Village Hall Management is in need of new committee members. Lynn is standing down at the end of the financial year, so we are looking for a new Treasurer.

Anyone who is interested in joining us to help run the Village Hall please contact Kathy Ashford (Secretary) on

hallbookings@langleywithhardleyvillagehall.org.uk phone 01508 528537, or Lynn (Treasurer) on 01508 528517; email **linn.star44@tiscali.co.uk**.

or any committee member.

Alternatively just come along to the AGM meeting.

Double Event at Langley with Hardley Sunday, May 20th 2018 from 2.00p.m. to 5.00p.m.

Langley with Hardley Parish Council

Official Opening of the Newly Equipped Playground

Thanks to a generous grant from WREN supported by funding from South Norfolk Council and the Parish Council the old condemned equipment was replaced in the autumn by a zip wire, play trail and slide together with adult fitness items. This completed the work commenced in the previous year when the old swings were replaced due to the generosity of the Adnams Charity.

There will be music, games and light refreshments (free for children). Please come and join us in the celebrations.

Langley with Hardley Village Hall 'Times Gone By'

A chance to look back at the history of Langley and Hardley villages. The Village Hall Management Committee will be arranging the exhibition and if you have any personal stories, documents, photographs or artefacts that you are willing to loan to us please talk to one of the Committee (or Parish Council) members. You may contact us by email :

hallbookings@langleywithhardleyvillagehall.org.uk

or phone Kathy Ashford on 01508 528537.

There will be a bar available and a raffle will be held to raise funds for the hall.

Adverts

Hales and Heckingham Parish Council



We start by advising that the Parish Council has held its request for funding from South Norfolk District Council (Precept) at the same level as last year.

There are three exciting developments within the Parishes at the moment.

The most obvious is the commencement of the construction of the new roundabout on the A146. Norfolk Council Highways keep us up to date with progress and the aerial photos that they are taking are on the Parish website. A bonus for the Village is that the 'Gates' * we have applied for at the east end of the B1136 will be erected and paid for in full by Norfolk County Council Highways.

** this is the term used to describe a welcome barrier at the side of the road at the entrance point of the Village.*

We have purchased the defibrillator mentioned in earlier publications and this has been installed on the wall of the Masala Garden Indian Restaurant. A number of local residents will receive training in the use of this potentially life saving equipment.

Our third important development is that the Council has made a decision on the way ahead for the playing field and we expect the new equipment to be installed sometime in June this year. There will be a range of equipment to suit all ages from toddlers through to adults. We believe that we have chosen a good range to cater for as many tastes as possible but with a limit to what we can spend there will always be something to add. We've made a good start.

We continue to look for more councillors. We have two vacancies at the time of writing and would welcome enquiries from anyone who would like to join us.

www.halesandheckinghamparishcouncil.org

Facebook: Hales and Heckingham Parish Council

The Sisland Chronicle continued from page 14

– still has the 'feel' of an ancient track about it, and is remarkably straight. I always drive carefully around the S bend just in case a Cohort of the Legion is coming the other way!

St Mary's in Sisland is gearing up for Spring, for apart from planting a new hedge (volunteers welcome), there will be TEAS on Easter Sunday 2 – 4 pm. A mystery demonstration, and a churchyard competition – Matching Birds with their Eggs, there might be interesting prizes as well. PS. Freddie might come to meet his fans!

SISLANDA

Adverts

Holy Trinity Bellringers



Sunday service ringing at Loddon continues throughout the Winter months and the Tuesday practice nights have been well attended, despite the cold nights. We regularly have ringers from Beccles and Surlingham come over to our practice which, once a month, is held on our Ten bell simulator.

We supported the final practice at St. Peter Mancroft on January 8th before the bells were silenced in preparation for building work to commence in the tower. Since then much has been done to prepare the inside of the ringing chamber to accept a new ringing gallery and heritage centre and also work has been done to strengthen the bell frame itself. A lot of the money for this has been raised by the ringers who were also awarded a grant by the Lottery fund. We entered a team into another quiz and chips fundraising event specially for this project which is expected to be completed by the summer of this year.

While the bells at St. Peter Mancroft are unringable, its ringers are travelling around other towers to practice and we at Loddon hosted them on Monday 5th February. We joined them to ring on our simulated ten bell setup with our two Dumbbells in action. We also rang a Quarter Peal of Grandsire Caters, which included two of their members ringing with eight of our ringers, conducted for the first time by our own Richard Salisbury. We have also rung other Quarter peals at Loddon since the beginning of the year of Cambridge and Yorkshire Royal, Erin and Stedman Caters, Grandsire Triples, Superlative and Kent Treble Bob Major.

Members supported an Eastern branch practice meeting on Saturday 10th February, held on the six bells at All Saint's in Catfield. We have also been to practices held at Bungay, Ashill and Hethersett. Sadly, a band member from Gt. Yarmouth Minster passed away recently, so as tributes, we rang specially arranged Quarter peals at Loddon, Norton Subcourse and at the Minster itself. A peal was also rung at Rumburgh. We also helped out at a twelve bell practice which took place at the Minster on Thursday 22nd February in preparation for ringing at the funeral by the local band.

Steve Rabong.

Please see the additional article on page 27:

**“Nation's bells to ring out together to mark
Armistice Centenary”**

Adverts

Nation's bells to ring out together to mark Armistice Centenary

The 100th Anniversary of the Armistice

It is a sad fact that about 1400 bell ringers died in the 1914-1918 war. Bells were silent during the war but gloriously rang out to celebrate the signing of the Armistice on 11th November 1918. The 100th anniversary of the Armistice will be commemorated in a similar way across the country on **November 11th** this year. It is hoped that 1400 + new ringers will be recruited across the country and you could be one of those new recruits at Loddon. We have a fine ring of 8 bells and good facilities to teach new ringers. You may have family members that were lost during the Great War and this would be an ideal opportunity to remember them in a very special way.

This is where you come in.

Ringers come from diverse backgrounds and span all age groups to share a fascinating team hobby in both a mentally stimulating and social setting.

We practice on Tuesday nights from 7.30 p.m. until 9.00 p.m. but at the start of the learning process there will be practices at other convenient times when the bells are silenced to get potential ringers "up to speed" so that confidence in handling a bell is quickly developed.

If you would firstly like to join us at one of our practices before making a firm commitment please contact the tower captain, **David Webb on Loddon 528468.**

Royal British Legion-Loddon & District Branch

Late last month we held a meeting with representatives from many Loddon organisations to start formulating provisional arrangements for this year's Remembrance parade through Loddon, and further meetings will be arranged as required throughout the year.



As you will know, 2018 marks one hundred years since the end of the first World War. Not only that, but this year's Remembrance Sunday actually falls on the 11th November, the hundredth anniversary to the day of the signing of the armistice to end the war so it is vitally important more than usual that all goes smoothly.

The next branch meetings will be on **Mondays 16th April** and **21st May** at the Kings Head Loddon. For advice in the meantime please phone our branch secretary Colin Hartley on 01508 521136.

NEWS FROM THE LODON PRIMARY FEDERATION

Our Infant and Junior Schools have been having a busy and exciting time during February and the March.

KIMMY'S ZOO

Our Year 2 children had a lovely time learning about the African Animals that were brought in by Kimmy's zoo. They met a tortoise, meerkat, millipede and snake. Some children were even brave enough to hold the snake around their neck.



CHINESE NEW YEAR

Year 1 has been learning about Chinese New Year. We had a Chinese visitor come into school and she told us why Chinese people celebrated New Year at a different time to our New Year (because of the moon calendar). She answered our questions on Chinese New Year and taught us how to say Happy New Year in Chinese and how to write good luck messages to our families.



CASMA

The choir performed at OPEN in Norwich on Tues 6 Feb with 6 other schools. They sang beautifully with a band from London called Khiyo, singing songs from India together with Indian dancing. A great night and a great experience for the children. Thank you to the parents that came and supported the school, and Rev

Alison who supported the choir.



AFRICAN FUSION VISIT TO YEAR 2

Fun, fantastic African drumming with djeme drums, an African dance with lots of clapping and stamping, plus a song in Swahili. The children were very enthusiastic and joined in confidently.

ROAD SAFETY TRAINING

Year 1's went out with Sarah from Norfolk County Council to have some Road Safety Training. The Children learned about the different lights on the car and what these lights mean, the dangers of cars in car parks, different types of paths and how and where to cross the road safely. A big thank you Sarah



and to the parents that gave up their time to help take the groups out.

JULIA EDWARDS

Recently we had a visit from the author Julia Edwards, who has published 5 books in the Scar Gatherer Series. It was a really fantastic day with all the children getting a session with her to learn about how to create tension in their story writing. The children were clearly very inspired by her and asked some great questions at the end of the day. This was followed by an extremely popular book signing session.



FORENSIC SCIENCE DAY

Year 6 visited Hobart High School for a Forensic Science Day: 6B on Monday 26th February and 6C on Tuesday 27th February.

In addition to all the above, the school celebrated **WORLD BOOK DAY** on Thursday 1st March, with our usual Book for Breakfast event and dressing up as our favourite book characters, and will be having a Non-uniform day on Friday 23rd March with donations going to **SPORT RELIEF**.

Congratulations to our Schools

In the March 'Contact' I was so pleased to read reports from both Loddon Schools — their exam results, of course, but also the variety of learning methods employed to encourage and excite students' further educational research. I only wish I had had the same stimulation at my grammar school—but this was many years ago!

I do congratulate both head teachers and staff involved and hope to read further reports of progress in curriculum later in the summer term.

Congratulations all round.

Margaret Redrupp

Loddon Library

31 Church Plain, Loddon, NR14 6EX

01508 520678

Opening Hours :-

Mon.: 10am - 1pm & 2 - 5pm; Wed. 10am - 1pm;
Thurs. 2 - 7.30pm; Fri. 2 - 7.30pm; Sat. 10am - 1pm

Church Services April

Sunday April 1st <i>Easter Day</i>	6.00am	'Sunrise' Holy Communion	St. Margaret Hardley
	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion	St Mary Sisland
	9.00am	Roman Catholic Mass	St John's Loddon
	10.00am	Xpressions Café with Holy Communion	All Saints Chedgrave
	10.45am	Holy Communion Liturgy of the Word at St John's, Liturgy of the Sacrament at Holy Trinity	
Sat 7th	6.00pm	Roman Catholic Mass	St. John's Loddon
Sun 8th	9.00am	Holy Communion	St. Margaret Hardley
	9.30am	BCP Holy Communion	All Saints Chedgrave
	10.45am	Morning Worship	St. John's Loddon
Sat 14th	6.00pm	Roman Catholic Mass	St. John's Loddon
Sun 15th	9.30am	All Together Worship	All Saints Chedgrave
	10.45am	Holy Communion <i>(followed by APCM)</i>	St. John's Loddon
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer	St Mary Sisland
Sat 21st	6.00pm	Roman Catholic Mass	St. John's Loddon
Sun 22nd	9.30am	Holy Communion <i>(followed by APCM)</i>	All Saints Chedgrave
	10.30 am	Morning Worship	St. Margaret Hardley
	10.45am	Morning Worship	St. John's Loddon
Sat 28th	6.00pm	Roman Catholic Mass	St. John's Loddon
Sun 29th	10.30am	Holy Communion <i>Combined Service</i>	All Saints Chedgrave
	6.30 for 7.00pm	Last Sunday Praise	St. John's Loddon

LAST SUNDAY PRAISE

This is usually held on the last Sunday of the month at 7.00 p.m. at St. Johns, Loddon. Refreshments at 6.30 before the service, or just come at 7.00 for the singing

Xtra!

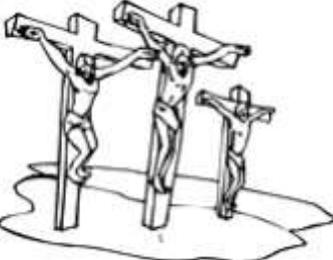
Join us in St John's Church for an exciting,
informal service **every Thursday after school.**
Refreshments, activities from 3.15. Service starts 3.45.
More from Reverend David 522993 or Reverend Alison 528126

MORNING PRAYER <i>Everyone is welcome to these times of Prayer</i>	Monday	9.00 a.m.	St John's Loddon
	Tuesday	9.00 a.m.	St. Margaret, Hardley
	Wednesday	9.00 a.m.	All Saints, Chedgrave
	Thursday	9.00 a.m.	St John's Loddon
	Friday	9.00 a.m.	St Mary Sisland
	Saturday	9.00 a.m.	All Saints, Chedgrave

COME AND PRAY

Would you like to spend some time in prayer with a small group of people?
All are welcome to come along to '**TIME FOR PRAYER AND SPACE FOR REFLECTION'**
at St John's on Tuesday evenings. 7.30 - 8.30pm.
Contact Rev. Jill Haylock on 520248, email jillhaylock@aol.com or just turn up.
Please note: On the third Tuesday the Mid-week service of Communion with Blessing will be held .

MID-WEEK COMMUNION WITH BLESSING
7.30 p.m. at St John's on the 3rd Tuesday of the month
All are welcome
(This monthly service is no longer specifically focussing on healing and laying on of hands.)



Chet Valley Churches

Good Friday

You are invited to a
Children's Reflection

at **All Saints Church, Chedgrave**

on **Friday March 30th from 10.00 – 11.30 am**

All pre-school children must be accompanied by an adult



✂

My child/ren would like to attend the reflection:

Names of children

Number of adults

Return slips to: Rev Alison e-mail ball880am@btinternet.com

Or 11 Langley Road, Chedgrave NR14 6HD

COMMUNITY GROUPS NEWS & EVENTS

Loddon Flower Club

April 3rd Jacquie Aldous : 'That's Entertainment - Act 3'
Hobart High School at 7.15. Everyone is most welcome.

Loddon Women's Institute

On February 21st our own member, Sue Sursham, shared with us her experiences of her travels in the Antarctic. The evening flew past as Sue gave us a really interesting talk all illustrated with her own beautiful photographs. She was also able to enlighten on us on some of the history of Antarctica and the steps that have been taken to preserve the environment of this (so far) unspoilt part of the world.

Next Meeting: April 18th Birthday Party

The Jubilee Hall., George Lane 7.15 for 7.30



Loddon W.I. was formed in 1930, making 2018 our 88th anniversary. Those early monthly meetings were held in Loddon's Lecture Hall on a Tuesday afternoon, when 65, or sometimes more, ladies attended and listened to an uplifting or instructive speaker. This was followed, of course, by tea and cakes.

Over the years, our numbers dwindled, not because our speakers were any less interesting or our cakes less tasty, but because many of the surrounding villages set up their own W.I.s, and ladies left to join their local group. We now have a membership of about 26 and at many of our meetings non-members, and even husbands, come along to join us as visitors. If ladies would like to join us, either as prospective members, or visitors, just come along and say hello.

We usually have a Trading Stall each month - a bit like a Bring and Buy, except the 'bringer' gets the money (with a small commission to W.I. Funds). We also have a competition at most meetings: nothing too serious, but it gives our members a chance to show their various skills and imagination.

Meetings start at 7.30pm by welcoming our speaker who will then entertain us for approximately 45 minutes to one hour. We then have a cup of tea and a chat and complete the meeting with W.I. business. Friends and visitors are welcome to join.



At the Jub Club Friday nights. Eyes down at 7-30pm. All welcome. Two jackpots that regularly top £100 with 10 games per session plus a flyer game. Evening usually ends around 9pm.

Chedgrave & District Women's Institute

Unfortunately., due to adverse weather conditions, our meeting in February was cancelled. Hopefully the weather for our April meeting will be more like Spring.

Next Meeting: Tuesday April 24th 2.00 pm. at All Saints Church Centre
We will have the opportunity to discuss and vote on the Resolution(s) chosen to go forward to the Annual meeting in Cardiff in June.
Also, on the same afternoon we will have a Sales Table, so start looking for things to bring along. Home produce, cakes, etc, are always welcome..

Langley with Hardley Women's Institute

April 17th. 7.30 pm Langley with Hardley Village Hall
Speaker: Barbara Miller - The Theatre in Norwich

Loddon & District Day Centre

Wednesdays & Fridays 9.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. at the Jubilee Hall . Join us for outings and games and a wide variety of entertainment.

We also enjoy a hot, home-cooked 2 course meal.

New members always welcome.

Interested? Please call Bev on 07826299290.



WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE ON MARCH 2nd.

In spite of the arctic conditions, the service went ahead and was very much appreciated and enjoyed by these fourteen hardy souls who braved the weather (and, incidentally, Rev Jill, who was behind the camera!!!)



Adverts

Chet Staithe Probus Club

Have you recently retired or just moved to the area? Are you missing mae company, on your own, or just want to get out from under your wife's feet? Then why not visit the Chet Staithe Probus Club which is held on the first and Third Tuesday of the month at the White Horse, Chedgrave. The meetings start at 10.00a.m. and usually finish around midday with the option of staying for lunch if required. Several of our members do. We are a friendly informal club, jackets and ties not required, with members ranging in age from 60 to almost 100. At each meeting we have a guest speaker and the topics can range from clocks, Whitehall, cartoons, space and even stagecoach journeys to Norwich.

Our next meetings are:

April 3rd AGM

April 17th David Bryant : Space—The Apollo

We really look forward to seeing you then.

Please contact Fred McEvetts Telephone 520622 or mcevetts@hotmail.com for more information

Chet Valley Probus Club

The Chet Valley Probus Club (*for retired Professional & Businessmen or any who have held some measure of responsibility in any field of endeavours*) meets at the White Horse Chedgrave on the second and fourth Tuesday morning, monthly. Good company, speakers, and food.

April 10th AGM

April 24th Richard Simmonds : Clocks & Clock Making

For further details and an application form please contact the secretary John McCormack, 5a Norton Road, Loddon NR14 6JN. 01508 521899.

Loddon Community Cinema

Thursday April 5th

Doors open 7pm, film starts 7.30.

Our next presentation is **“DUNKIRK”** rated 12. Directed by Christopher Nolan. Starring Fionn Whitehead, Kenneth Branagh, Mark Rylance and Tom Hardy.

This visual masterpiece relies on image perhaps more than dialogue to capture the evacuation of nearly 400,000 Allied troops from the beaches of Dunkirk in 1940. Told through 3 time lines of a soldier, a small boat crew and an RAF pilot the “Miracle of Dunkirk” unfolds. Nolan seems to personally try to dispel the feeling the RAF did little during the battle with some spectacular flying sequences shot without the CGI we come to take for granted. Hope you enjoy.

The Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon.

Tickets: Adults £4 child £2.

On the door or in advance from Loddon Garden and Seed.



Adverts

Loddon and District Horticultural Society

Our next meeting on **Wednesday April 11th** will be our **Spring Mini Show** for members.

This will take place in the Jubilee Hall, Loddon, at 7.30pm. Everybody welcome.

We have two events coming up in May: a talk on Woodland Flowers by Ben Potterton and our annual Plant Sale.

If you would like any more information on our friendly society, please contact Mim on 01508 493332.

Hobart Badminton Club

We meet on Fridays 7.30 - 9.30 pm at the Sports Hall, Hobart High School. We play socially and are not in a league.

New members, aged 18 and over, welcome – some previous playing experience required.

Membership:

Trial Members: £4 per session for 4 weeks

Full members:- £10 annual subscription and £4 for each week you play

Visitors:- £5 per session

Further information from Barbara Boardman –

email tomenelli@btinternet.com



Loddon Community Gym

Mondays: 1.30pm to 6. pm. **Tuesdays:** 4-30 to 8-30 p.m.

Fridays: 10am to 1pm. at the Jubilee Hall

Our well equipped, not for profit gym offers a relaxed sociable atmosphere to help you improve your fitness, health and wellbeing.

G.P. Referrals welcome.

For further details contact Louise on 07534 946143

or visit www.loddoncommunitygym.com



Footballers wanted!

We are a friendly, relaxed group of guys of all ages and abilities who meet at Hobart Astroturf every Monday evening from 8:30-9:30 for a non-competitive kick-about to keep fit and socialise. We are looking for like minded people to join us.

Cost £2.50 per session, first session free.

For more details, please contact Terry on:

Email: tezzahayden99@gmail.com

Facebook: Loddon Men's Football Club



Adverts

We're having a

SPRING Clean Weekend

at Langley with Hardley Village Hall
on 14/15 April 2018 10.00am onwards both days



PLEASE come and join us. If you use the hall, might use the hall or are new to the area and would like to help your local community we would love to see you.

South Yare Wildlife Group

Thursday March 22nd 19.30 to 21.00 at Bergh Apton Village Hall. *(This might be in time for some of you to see!)*



You are invited to our March event which is, appropriately, about Hares.

Despite the hares historical reputation as a feared portent of evil, many people now delight in seeing the elusive animal and watching their "hare-brained" antics. Although hares are a familiar sight in the East Anglian countryside their numbers are in decline.

Join local naturalist and photographer Sue Alderman from The Hare Preservation Trust for an insight into the hidden world of one of our most iconic mammals.

Admission £2 for members (you can join for the year for £10)
£5 for non -members. Under 16s free

**AGM and talk about
the State of the Natural Environment Report.
Monday 16th April 19.30 to 21.00
Claxton Village Hall . NR14 7AS
Admission free. No need to book.**

Join us for a talk about the SYWG Commissioned State of the Natural Environment Report which gives a fascinating insight into the state of the environment in the 24 parishes which make up the South Yare Wildlife Group's area. A hard copy of the report is available to members. It will also be freely available on line. It provides a valuable introduction the area's land use, habitats and wildlife and the current attempts to protect and manage this valuable heritage

For further information please see www.southyarewildlife.org
or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

Adverts

Loddon & District Local History Group

1. Our February meeting started with our brief AGM.

Jan Bensley [Chair] reported that, happily, we had had another successful year with well attended meetings. A varied programme has been prepared for the coming year with some old friends and some new faces.

Sadly two of the committee (Jenny Bemment & Mary Littlefield) had resigned prior to the meeting as other activities were making demands upon their time. Our thanks to them for their support to date. A plea for volunteers to join the committee was made.

Christine Hartley reported that we were in a sound financial position, and could keep the fee for meetings at the present rate of £3 for the coming year, though the cost of Speakers needed to be monitored.

Carol Carpenter briefly took the Chair as the Committee stood down and were re-elected (proposed by Carol & seconded by David Crease)

Chair: Jan Bensley; *Treasurer:* Christine Hartley; *Secretary:* Elvie Herd; *Refreshments/Publicity:* Jill Chandler, Colin Hartley and Anne Crossman.

2. Loddon Parish Study update:

David Crease reported that we dug a test pit in Chedgrave and two in Loddon. There had been two geo-phys surveys, one in Loddon near the Vicarage, the second in Haddiscoe in the new Church yard, with a view to digging a test pit later this year. The Loddon pits (especially the pit near two earlier pits near the Vicarage where the mole hills were particularly productive on the geo-phys day) have confirmed the results of previous years that there was medieval occupation in Loddon. Could we dig a pit in your garden or field?

Documentary work continues, with Peter Smith working on the 1911 Chedgrave Census, Ian Martin working on Electoral Rolls and Elvie working on early wills and Churchwardens Accounts. Anne has resumed work on Mary Palmer's account book & diaries and we look forward to this being completed.

Jan has completed another House survey (7 Bridge Street) lodged in the library and at Gressenhall.

3. Claire Bradshaw, Community Archaeologist based at Gressenhall, introduced the Lottery funded *Water, Mills and Marshes: the Broads Landscape Partnership will work to further conserve and enhance the built and natural heritage of the area between Norwich, Great Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Acle and Loddon following the course of the rivers Yare, Bure and Waveney.*

We thanked her for her support over the years and wished her well for the future, as sadly Community Archaeology is a victim of the Local Authority funding cuts.

4. Carol Carpenter showed a video created by Peter Larter, a photo montage describing the 1912 floods in Norwich, followed by pictures of

Continued on page 43

Adverts

History Group continued from page 41

extreme weather in Loddon. This was followed by our usual refreshments.

We had volunteers to help with the Committee & with transcriptions. Maybe you would like to help too, or host a test pit? Contact us via: **loddonparishstudy@gmail.com**

Next meetings:

April 18th Dr Adrian Marsden returns to tell us "Tales behind the Tokens"

May 16th Phyllida Scrivens to tell us about her research into the "Lady Lord Mayors of Norwich"

Meetings at 1.30 p.m. at the Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon.

Further details: 01508 520120/521136

Loddon and Chedgrave District Society

April 10th – Tuesday, Raveningham Hall, 10.30 am *

A private Garden visit, with tea, coffee and cakes. Wander round the 10 acre gardens as you wish, a map will be provided.

£10.00 each. Contact June on 528853. by 3rd April.

April 25th – Wednesday, BUNGAY 10.00 am.

WALK, Joanna will guide us on a spring walk round the meadows near Bungay. Meet at the walkers carpark by the Golf Course. Pub lunch to be confirmed. Contact June 528853.

May 2nd – Wednesday, 7.30 pm – Jubilee Hall, Loddon

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. Speaker to be confirmed.

Wine and Cheese to be served after conclusion of business.

May 9th – Wednesday, 10.30 am. Dunwich *

NT Car Park. Circular Walk from Dunwich Heath, past the Eels Foot, to the beach. Approx. 5 miles. Lunch at The Ship, Contact June 528853. 2 weeks prior.

Very important: All bookings for lunches, walks, events etc. must be made in good time through the person named. Events marked with an * must be booked or paid in advance by the date noted to guarantee a place. All walks will cost £1. Please read information carefully.

***The Loddon and Chedgrave District Society** is an Amenity Society affiliated to the CPRE. The CPRE is a national charity which helps people to protect their local countryside where there is a threat, to enhance it wherever there is opportunity and to keep it beautiful, productive and enjoyable to everyone. We support these aims through participation in CPRE and CPRE-Norfolk events, as well as our own meetings, activities and organised walks.*

For further information please contact Hillary Meredith Membership Sec: at 24 Snows Hill Chedgrave 01508 520457

Adverts

News from Davy Place

Thank you to all those people who have generously donated craft items and knitting and sewing materials, including a couple of sewing machines, to our Coffee and Craft Club. We meet every Thursday morning (except on Hot Lunch Club days) from 10am until 12 o'clock. Please come and join us if you can ... we serve coffee and cake too!

Thanks also to those who supported our recent Quiz Evening. Prior to the quiz we enjoyed a tasty jacket potato and salad supper followed by trifle and black forest gâteau. We would like to say a special thank you to Ted for being a very entertaining quiz-master!

Regretfully our eagerly awaited coach trip to Caister Castle Carvery was cancelled due to the inclement weather. We hope the outing can be re-booked. We are looking forward to going to see the Thursford Christmas Show in December.

On **Wednesday 4th April** we shall be holding our first Breakfast/Brunch in the Common Room at Davy Place. Please watch the noticeboard for further details.

Please see advert below for an event on April 16th.

Bingo news ... Evening Bingo sessions will restart in April. Please watch the notice board for the date.

And now to business ... **the Davy Place Social Club AGM** will take place on **Monday 7th May starting at 10am** when we shall be looking to appoint a new Chairperson and a Minutes Secretary.

Thank you to all those who attend our Social Club events and activities during the year. We always appreciate your support.

Karen from "Clothes Line"

will be at Davy Place on

Monday 16th April at 10am

selling her wide range
of women's and men's wear.

Carrie from "Nails and Beauty"

will also be in attendance for facial, hands,
nail and foot care, at very reasonable rates.

Pop the date in your diary
and come along and be pampered!

Cake and coffee too!

Adverts



1st Loddon Scouts Group

'POP UP' GARAGE SALE

in LODDON and CHEDGRAVE

Sunday 13th May 10am to 2pm

This is a fantastic opportunity to turn your once loved items into cash from the comfort of your garage, front garden or driveway.

For those who love to browse you can shop 'til you drop.

COST TO ENTER - £8.00

GARAGE SALE TRAIL MAPS FOR SHOPPERS - £1.00

These will be available from local outlets prior to the event and then from Church Plain on the day.

TO ENTER YOUR GARAGE PLEASE CONTACT: -

Claire Richards on 01508-520990

or email crichards_p1@yahoo.co.uk

Closing date Friday 4th May 2018

Do you want to learn the piano or improve your piano playing skills?

Friendly, fun and motivating piano tuition available at Loddon Mill Arts, Bridge Street, Loddon by life-long classical musician, performer and mother Katherine Walter, BA (Hons.), LRAM.

I have some weekly spaces available still for all ages and levels from beginner to advanced player. Tuition available in the evenings or during the day. Training for ABRSM exams given from Grade 1 to Grade 8 or just learn the piano for fun.

It's only £15 for half an hour weekly lesson, so why not give it a go!

References and recommendations from other pupils are available.

You can contact me on: 01508 521800, 43 Bridge Street, Loddon, NR14 6NA or by email to: info@loddonmillarts.co.uk

Adverts



Chedgrave MS Therapy Centre



May Coffee Morning

Saturday 19th May 2018 10.00am to 12 noon

at their Centre (opposite The White Horse PH on the Langley Road)

There will be a cake stall, clothes for sale, bric-a-brac, tombola and a raffle.

Come along and support a very worthwhile cause.



Saturday 9th June

Jubilee Hall

George Lane Loddon

£7.50 per ticket

(Tickets available from Loddon Infant & Junior School
or The White Horse, Chedgrave)

Food & drink available to purchase from 6.30pm

First dance 7.30pm

All welcome

All proceeds to Loddon Primary Federation

LODDON TUESDAY MARKET

The Hollies, High Street, Loddon

9.15 a.m. onwards

All fresh local produce: baking, vegetables, eggs, crafts, etc.

Join our friendly café for teas, coffees and cakes.

We would welcome new cooks –talk to us on Tuesdays!

Adverts

Read Any Good Books Lately?

"To the millions of readers who love books, reading is as natural and as necessary to life as breathing. Without books the world for us would be an arid desert with no footprints from the past, no oases of comfort for the present and no sign-posts to the future." P.D. James

"101b Penalty," by Dick Francis

A terrific story - a thriller, of course, with horse-racing as part of the story, but in the background this time. The main part of the book is the love between a father and a son, and the father's new career in politics, which someone attempts to thwart using various murderous methods. Be warned - if you read this book, the suspense is such that you will find it very difficult to put it down until you reach the end!

"The End of the Wasp Season," by Denise Mina

Another thriller, this one set in Glasgow. Very well written - a real page-turner. All sorts of people come to life (metaphorically!) on the pages of this book. At the heart of it is an extremely dysfunctional family, a suicide, several adolescents and a pregnant female detective. Households range from the privileged to the poverty-stricken. Brilliant.

"The Small Hours," by Susie Boyt

Harriet Mansfield is someone who cares deeply for other people, but feels inadequate and unloved herself; this is thanks to the way she was brought up by parents who, it seems, could not show her love, and to a brother who appears to have suffered traumatically at the hands of their father, but blames Harriet for some reason. It takes time for these things to become clear in the story, and what does become clear is that Harriet has received psychiatric care in the past. When she has some money left to her she opens a small nursery school and is at her happiest working hard and keeping the children happy. It is impossible not to feel admiration and affection for Harriet, who tries so hard to overcome her dark memories.

There is humour and sadness in this tender and unusual novel.

(A note that may be of interest: Susie Boyt is the daughter of artist Lucian Freud and great-granddaughter of Sigmund Freud).

"A God in Ruins," by Kate Atkinson

Sometimes a book is so good that it's impossible to say how good it is without sounding gushing. This is one such book. Comments from critics include the words, "Dazzling," "Breathtaking," "Magnificent," "Heartbreaking," "Gripping, often deliriously funny yet emotionally devastating."

The story follows the life of Teddy Todd who - after discovering that teaching is not for him - finds himself first becoming a bomber pilot in World War 2 and then a husband, father, grandfather and writer of nature notes for a small periodical. His life is full of achievements and disappointments.

The depth of understanding shown by Kate Atkinson of the relationships between people is astonishing. Her descriptions of the dangers faced by those who flew bombers in World War 2 are so vivid, it's as if she was there.

Continued on page 53

Adverts

Read any good books lately continued

Equally sensitive is her description of what it is like for a little boy to be parentally unloved and unwanted (not Teddy, but his grandson). The part of the book devoted to that section is very moving.

The story is not written in a natural sequence, but skips about from one period to another and at first it can become tricky to discover who and when the author is writing about, but suddenly it all falls into place and we are carried along in the way she intends us to be.

Kate Atkinson is a wonderfully talented writer and *A God in Ruins* is an exceptionally good book.

(The pre-cursor of this novel is *Life After Life*, and it may be better - but it is not essential - to read that book before this one).

Nature Notes

*"O, to be in England now that April's there,
And whoever wakes in England sees, some morning, unaware,
That the lowest boughs and the brushwood sheaf
Round the Elm tree bole are in tiny leaf,
While the Chaffinch sings on the orchard bough
In England - now!"*

These famous lines are very familiar to all of us, written by Robert Browning (1812-1889) and still relevant today. Unfortunately the Elms are no longer with us after the victory of Dutch Elm Disease in recent years, but the sentiment is the same. Browning had an eye for nature and this poem reflects his love of the English countryside. Getting on for 200 years later our way of life is very different and land use has altered beyond recognition. Despite these changes, wildlife, although much depleted, is still trying to survive and in some cases making a comeback. Otters in particular seem to be flourishing as our awareness of pollution in rivers and water courses is being tackled and fish are surviving in larger numbers to feed them.

April is the 'awakening' each year. The first real month of Spring when migrant birds return to nest along with our resident species. Hopefully some of us will, once more, hear the Cuckoo call and if you do, please don't forget to let me know. As buds burst on the trees and their flowers appear, so too do the insects which thrive on the pollen they produce. Blue Tits will lay their eggs and when the young hatch it is estimated that a brood of 10 chicks will need around 1000 caterpillars a day to eat. No wonder they are so busy in and out of your nest boxes. I am amazed that any caterpillars are left to develop into butterflies and moths. If they do then these too will become prey for birds and bats.

Hedgehogs should be around now and if you are lucky enough to have one in your garden it will happily eat up all of your unwanted slugs. Tadpoles will have escaped from their jelly and be free swimming. In their early days they will feed on the algae that grows on water plants. Later, when their internal gills develop, they will eat tiny creatures like Water Fleas and even each

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other, should food be in short supply. If you have any in your garden ponds then a couple of pinches of fish food flakes may help them over this difficult time in their development and maybe more Frogs will make it to adulthood. The importance of the food chain has been a much discussed topic recently but it cannot be over stated how important it is to sustain things from the bottom to feed creatures at the top.

Some time ago I mentioned the Wild Patch Project being set up by the South Yare Wildlife Group. This has been taken on board by many people now and hopefully will spread even further this year. If you are interested, take a look at their website for more information. They have a really good animation to watch too.

As the days get warmer and we venture out more, don't forget about Wheatfen at Surlingham. Too often we seem to travel to places further afield when there are lovely areas to visit near by. This reserve is open every day and is free to all (although donations are always welcome). A programme of events is held each year with specialised walks and study groups but an afternoon walk, just noting what you can see, is really enjoyable. There are so many species of wildlife there and I believe it is the only reserve in the country that has recorded sightings every day since Ted Ellis started it so many years ago.

Here's hoping the sun shines.

Carol..... 520456.

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Gardening Notes

As I write these notes, the last of the snow drifts are melting. Last week was quite a weather event; fortunately it doesn't happen very often. The last time was 1987, and as happened then all the roads were blocked for a couple of days with some back roads still not cleared. I would like to thank the local farmers who helped clear the roads, and every one who helped those who couldn't help themselves. It's always good to see the local community working together.

Because of all the snow on already wet ground it will take a little while for the soil to be dry enough to plant seeds. It's best to plant into good conditions, so be patient. When conditions allow sow seeds of main crop peas, summer cauliflowers, summer cabbage, beetroot, spring onions, radish, carrots, parsnips, lettuce, leeks, and over wintering brassicas such as sprouts, cauliflowers and cabbage. Main crop potatoes should be planted in April. If you find growing from seed a pain then buy vegetable plants: we have them in stock from mid March.

In the greenhouse early sowings into pots of runner beans, French beans, sweetcorn, pumpkins, and melons etc can be made, with the aim to plant them into the garden in May. Make sure they don't dry out and protect from frost. Tomatoes and cucumbers plants can be planted out in the

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greenhouse in April. Ventilate on hot days and protect on cold days. By now lawns will be growing strongly, so it's best to cut weekly, and where moss is present apply a feed and moss killer. This will keep the lawn looking good through the spring.

Bedding plants can be planted out this month: prepare the soil and apply a fertiliser and plant the bedding plants out, leaving the recommended space between plants as its easy to plant the plants too close when they are small, and then find when they are mature that everything is squashed up.

When the soil warms up bugs and diseases will be a problem. Treat with the appropriate chemicals early. If its left too late the plants will suffer.

Weeds in paths and driveways should be sprayed off with a residual weed killer as they emerge . This should stop weed growth until late summer.

All we need now is plenty of sun shine to warm our backs and dry the soil out.

Andrew Carver Loddon Garden and DIY



Coldham Hall Sailing Club Surlingham (NR14 6AN) *The Heart of Sailing on the River Yare* Learn to sail this summer

Coldham Hall Sailing Club is holding its Try Sailing sessions during June and July. If you would like to learn to sail, this is the ideal opportunity. We are running a 7 week program using a variety of dinghies and yachts on the River Yare – an introduction designed to get you on the water and able to sail independently. Sessions will take place on Thursday evenings starting on **7th June 2018 (6.30 – 8.30pm)**.

We are holding a “Push the Boat Out” open day on **Sunday 20th May from 1.30pm**

Come along to the clubhouse and enjoy a short sail & chat with members.

Contact: - Gary Corbett on 07770323433

or by email corbett01@btconnect.com

Full Details on the club website. www.coldhamhallsailingclub.co.uk



